

# NI Bulletin

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## OBJECTIVES OF NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL

Numismatics International is a non-profit educational organization. Its Objectives are: to encourage and promote the science of numismatics by specializing in areas and nations other than the United States of America; to cultivate fraternal relations among collectors and numismatic students; to encourage and assist new collectors; to foster the interest of youth in numismatics; to stimulate and advance affiliations among collectors and kindred organizations; and to acquire, share, and disseminate knowledge.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** Individual & Club Memberships, \$20.00 annually; Junior Membership (18 years of age and under), \$15.00 annually; Senior Membership (70 years of age and older), \$15.00 annually.

# Numismatics International Bulletin

Volume 41

November 2006

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<b>NI Membership Report</b> .....	<b>221</b>
<b>NI Educational Programs</b> .....	<b>221</b>
<b>Letters to the Editor</b> .....	<b>241</b>
<b>Jean Elsen</b>	
<i>Coins of the Northern Provinces (Netherlands) and the Southern Provinces (Belgium)</i> .....	<b>222</b>
<b>Nupam Mahajan</b>	
<i>India: Coins of Marathas</i> .....	<b>231</b>



## Membership Report

The following person has applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by January 1, 2007 the membership is effective that day.

2687-MT Steven Mengler. Coin from every nation, state, city, etc. Low Countries, Germany and Italy.



## NI Educational Programs Numismatics International at the Denver ANA

Numismatics International was represented by Howard A. Daniel III at the recent ANA Convention in Denver, Colorado. He set up a club table for NI, and for IBNS, Numismatic Bibliomania Society (NBS) and the Philippine Collectors Forum (PCF). The table was in an excellent location on the bourse and just inside the entrance. David Seelye stopped at the club table one day and made a donation to NI of several thousand German notgeld coins.

For most of the first day and part of the second, he was stuffing baggies with several world coins from NI and a banknote from IBNS. There was also a form in it that Howard created to describe the four organizations he was representing, how to join them, and which organizations donated the coins, note and/or reference given to them. Over 350 baggies were given to young and new collectors, and over 200 references.

*Continued on page 241*

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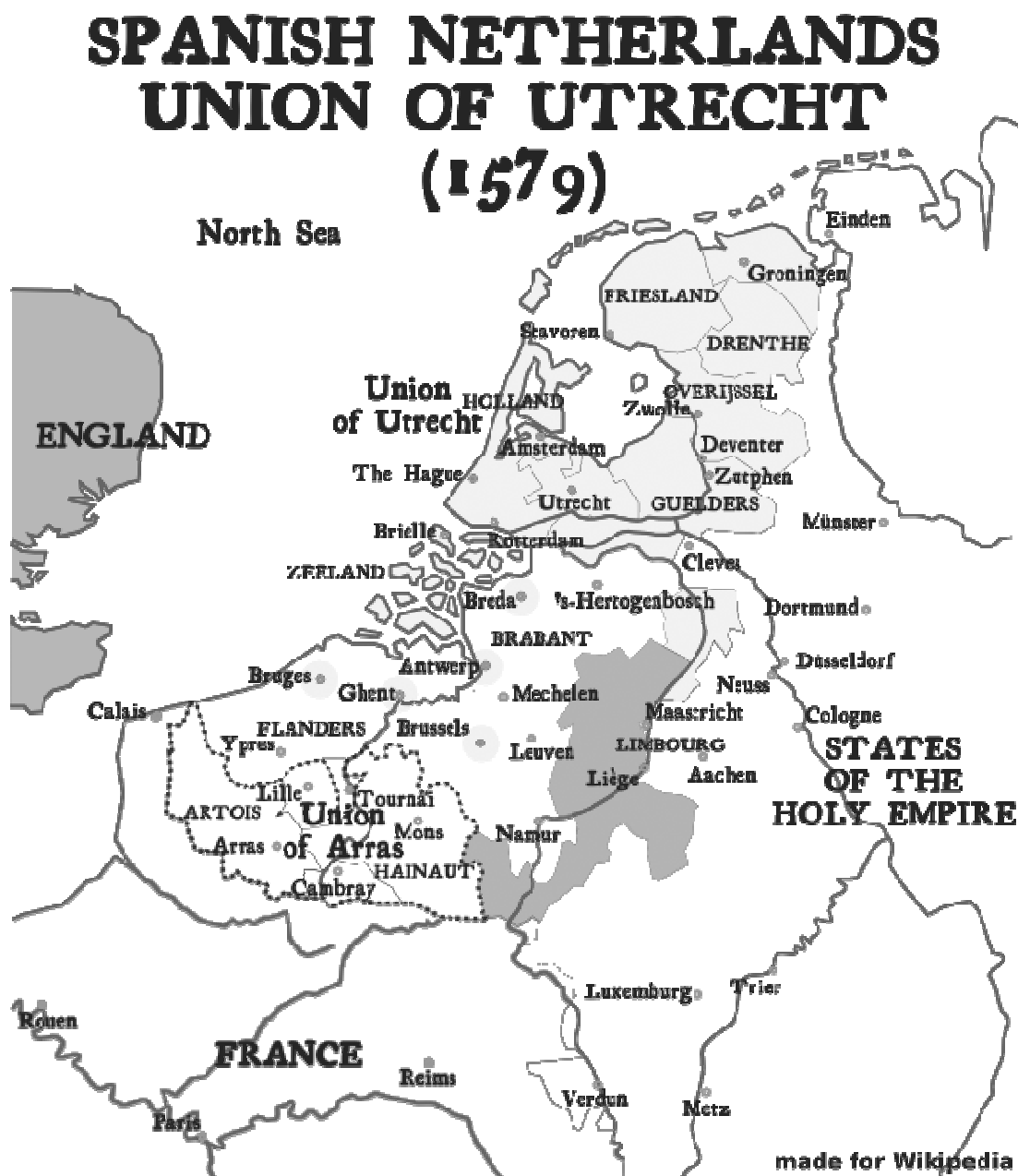
**Coins of the Northern Provinces (Netherlands)  
and the Southern Provinces (Belgium)**  
**Jean Elsen (Jean Elsen & ses Fils)**

In September of this year, in Brussels, we sold the most important collection of coins of the 17 Provinces (Netherlands and Belgium) formed in the United States. This was the collection of Mr. J.R. Lasser of New York, who assembled it during the 1980s and 90s. His paternal grandparents came from the Netherlands, which explains his curiosity concerning the history and numismatics of the Netherlands. His great interest for the American colonial period quickly led him to search for the coins struck by the different colonial powers (Netherlands, Spain...) that could have been circulating in the New World. Among those, the coins of the Netherlands of 16th and 17th centuries occupy, of course, an important place. Over a period of approximately twenty years, this collection gradually grew to more than a thousand coins. A few years ago, Mr. J.R. Lasser offered several hundred of his coins to an American museum in Virginia, *The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*. He chose to give the colonial era contemporary types which were more likely to have been circulating in North America. With reason he thought that the rare and very rare types, often struck over a very short period and which probably saw limited circulation, had less interest for that American museum. He consequently decided to offer these more interesting specimens for public sale.

During the 16th century, the Southern Provinces, with the town of Antwerp as its center, played an important economic role. The eighty years war (1568-1648) put an end to this dominance. During the first revolt against the Spanish authority (1565-1609) these provinces were devastated by the military campaigns, resulting in poverty, disorders and insecurity. Afterwards the Southern provinces were part of a much weakened Spanish empire. The economic regression of the South worsened after the closing of the river Scheldt in 1585. In the Northern provinces, the revolt and the war resulted in political emancipation and the creation of the Republic of the Seven United Provinces.

During the eighty years' war, the expansion of the Republic led to its economic and commercial hegemony, based on its maritime power. The Northern Netherlands then experienced their "Golden Century." The alliance between the sailors and the merchants, developed during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, led to the economical domination of the North. Holland wanted to play an important role in the colonization of America and created the Company of the Indies in 1623. But locked up in its rigid system of commercial interests, Holland did not succeed in developing in the New World the industrial capitalism that was necessary. In the Far East, it aimed at commercially exploiting a colonial empire, and there the United Provinces had great, since the activities of the VOC (*Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie*) aligned with the Dutch system of commercial capitalism.





Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Map-1579\\_Union\\_of\\_Utrecht.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Map-1579_Union_of_Utrecht.png)

This rich historical period of the Northern and Southern Netherlands is perfectly illustrated by their respective coinages. The Low Countries, an integral part of the Spanish empire, continued to mint coins with the portraits and titles of their legitimate sovereign, the king of Spain. A limited number of coins were struck by the States General or the States of the provinces. In 1582, Alexander Farnese, duke of Parma and general governor of the Netherlands (31 December 1581 - 3 December 1592), continued his campaigns of re-conquest. He made himself master of the Belgian cities of Oudenaarde (1582) and Ypres (1583) and forced Bruges and Ghent to surrender on 17 September 1584. Flanders was by then nearly completely re-conquered. The Spanish troops then besieged Brussels, which fell in 1584. Mansfelt took the cities of Diest and Westerlo, while Montigny and Lamotte besieged the city of Dunkirk, with the assistance of Farnese. After the capitulation of Antwerp on 17 August 1585, Spain was again master of the Southern Netherlands. In this agitated period, daalders were struck by the Independent States of Brabant during the long

siege of Antwerp. Here we show a commemorative daalder struck in 1584, on double weight planchet (Delmonte 228) and of the greatest rarity. This coin was part of the Virgil Brand collection, a famous American collector, sold by Sotheby's in Amsterdam on 18 May 1984. It was then offered in list 116 of Jean Elsen in May 1989 and was acquired by Mr. J.R. Lasser.



**Figure 1**  
**Delmonte 228**

At the time of the siege of Antwerp in 1584, the States of Brabant also struck the Robustusdaalder (Delmonte 229). This specimen comes from Jean Elsen sale 62, 24 May 2000 (lot 983).



**Figure 2**  
**Delmonte 229**

During the first half of the 16th century, several municipal mints of the Northern Netherlands imitated types of the German talers (the German taler became the daalder in the Dutch monetary system and later the dollar in America). This occurred first in the three imperial cities: Deventer, Kampen and Zwolle. Thus Deventer struck in 1538 remarkable daalders representing Saint Lebuinus and showing on the reverse the linked arms of the three cities: Deventer, Kampen and Zwolle (Delmonte 665). The illustrated specimen is nearly superb condition and extremely rare.



**Figure 3**  
**Delmonte 665**

According to a decree of 1 December 1578, the town of Utrecht struck a double daalder (Delmonte 664a). The obverse is depicting the crowned arms of the city held by two lions. This daalder is of the greatest rarity, double weight and the only specimen known in private hands. The Coin Cabinet of Utrecht has the second known specimen. The illustrated daalder belonged originally to the J Völker collection, sold by J. Schulman and F. Müller in Amsterdam on 6 April 1888 (lot 223). It was then acquired by A. Vrolik, former Minister of Finance of the Netherlands and president of the "muntcollege." The Vrolik collection was sold by J. Schulman on 8 November 1897. Since 1899 this double daalder of Utrecht was part of the Virgil Brand collection and was sold by Sotheby's in 1984 (lot 384).



**Figure 4**  
**Delmonte 664a**

About 1580 a superb daalder of 30 stivers was struck at the city of Zaltbommel in Guelders, showing the town-wall on the obverse and its arms held by two lions on the reverse (Delmonte 561). The stiver (stuiver) or patard (sol) was for a long time the account currency replacing the old groat. The florin, replacing the old account pound, had the value of 20 stivers. The illustrated specimen is of exceptional quality and is rare for the daalders of that time.



**Figure 5**  
**Delmonte 561**

In Guelders, William IV, lord of Bergh (1546-1586), struck the daalder with an image of Saint Pancras, showing on the obverse the standing saint resting on a shield of arms, and on the reverse a lion passing to the left. The helmet is not surrounded by the usual nimbus (a variety which is mentioned neither by Delmonte, nor by Voogt). Only three specimens are known to exist: one belongs to the Teyler museum, the second one is part of the National Bank of the Netherlands collection, the third specimen illustrated here.



**Figure 6**  
**Delmonte unlisted**

As governor of Guelders (1581-1583), William IV of Bergh struck at Dieren some very beautiful knight daalders: on the obverse, a knight holding a banner, riding to the left over the 4-fold shield of the arms of Bergh; on the reverse, the arms of Guelders and Bergh under a helmet (Delmonte 599). This daalder is also of the greatest rarity.



**Figure 7**  
**Delmonte 599**

Still for Guelders, William IV of Bergh struck knight daalders in 1582, on the obverse the arms of Guelders under a riding knight; on the reverse the arms of Guelders and Zutphen together under a helmet (Delmonte 788).



**Figure 8**  
**Delmonte 788**

The armies of the duke of Parma progressed towards the north, where they seized Nymegen (1585). Eindhoven, besieged since February, was taken on 23 April of that same year. Parma occupied the fortified towns one after the other, but the Spanish troops were unable to cross the large rivers nor the IJssel. The minting of coins had now passed definitively under the authorities of the Northern Provinces. Thus in Western Friesland, in addition to the normal emissions, a small number of daalders were struck on double weight planchets between 1586 and 1588 (Delmonte 925a). These coins are extremely rare. A specimen dated 1586 is in the collection of the National Bank of the Netherlands, another, dated 1588, is in the museum of Leeuwarden. The illustrated specimen is superb quality, struck in 1587.



**Figure 9**  
**Delmonte 925a**

In 1598 the town of Groningen struck daalders with the representation of Saint John (Delmonte 731). Two specimens are known to exist of this very rare type. The illustrated specimen of a superb quality, comes from the Virgil Brand collection, Sotheby's sale of 18 May 1984 (lot 489).



**Figure 10**  
**Delmonte 731**

That same mint struck also daalders with the Saint John on square planchets (Delmonte 731d).



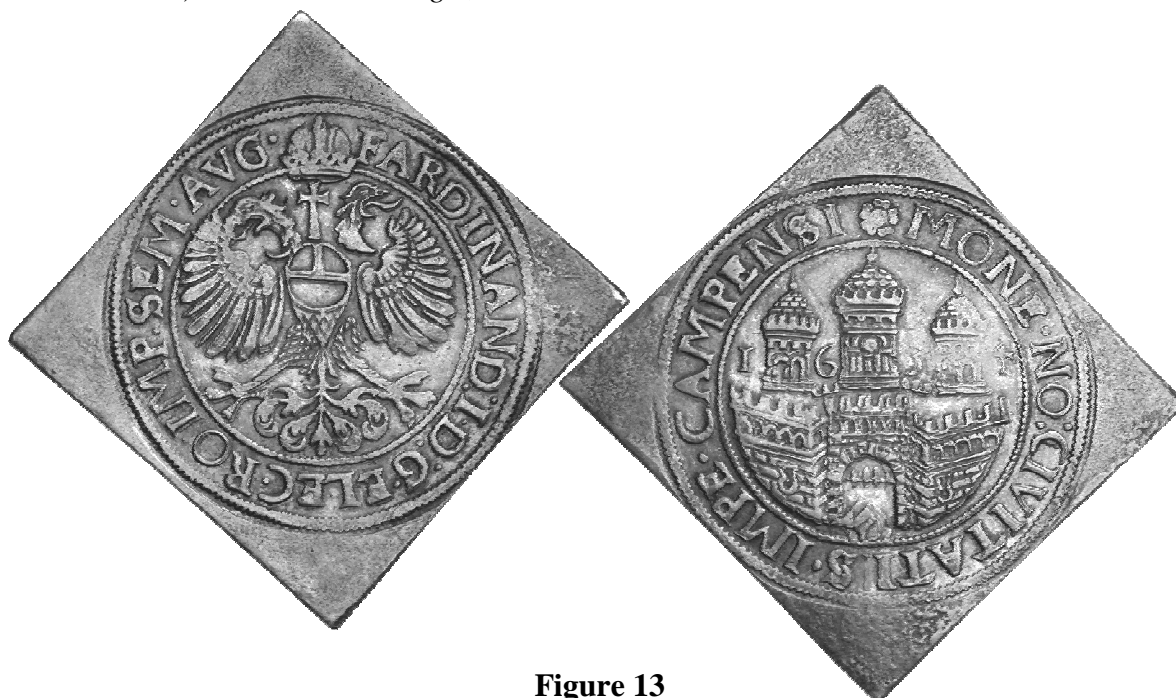
**Figure 11**  
**Delmonte 731d**

A half-daalder of 1567, struck by the three imperial cities, formed part of the Lasser collection. Of the four known specimens, two are in public collections: the Dutch Cabinet of Medals (KPK) and the museum De Waag. The illustrated specimen of exceptional quality, was bought from Laurens Schulman on 6 April 1992 (lot 738).



**Figure 12**  
**Delmonte 677**

An arendrijksdaalder of Kampen, dated 1634, struck on a square flan (Delmonte 704a alternative). *Arend* means "eagle," *ed.*



**Figure 13**  
**Delmonte 704a variety**

One of the coins struck by the Northern provinces is the Netherlands rijksdaalder. This specimen from the Lasser collection was struck by Holland in 1674 on a double weight planchet (Delmonte 939a). Delmonte mentions only the specimen of the Dutch Cabinet of Medals. This specimen comes from the sale van der Dussen in 1985 (lot 127).





**Figure 14**  
**Delmonte 939a**

Let us mention two more coins coming from the Southern Provinces: a silver guilder depicting the bust of Philip IV, triple weight (32.13g), struck at Antwerp. This unique specimen (Delmonte 316a) shows traces of wear, proving that it had circulated at the value of the ducaton or 60 stivers (sols). It comes from the sale organized by Jean Vinchon, simultaneously in Paris and Brussels, on 6 November 1991 (lot 417).



**Figure 15**  
**Delmonte 316a**

Maximilian of Berghes, bishop of Cambrai (1556-1570), struck daalders showing the crowned Saint Maximilian (Delmonte 404). The piece illustrated here is a unique variety as it was struck with the title of archbishop. It comes from the Spink, London, sale of 11 October 1994 (lot 1074).



**Figure 16**  
**Delmonte 404**

*NI*



## **India: Coins of Marathas**

### **Nupam Mahajan**

The Marathas were the single most formidable Hindu power which made a successful attempt for supremacy of the whole Indian subcontinent on decline of Mughals in the seventeenth century. The origin of Marathas can be traced back to the reign of Emperor Ashok who ruled in 2nd century BC. From deciphered rock edicts we know that he sent his missionaries to the Rashtrikas, the dwellers of Dandaka forest. These fierce independent minded people called themselves Maha-rashtrikas (Maha means great). In the course of time the country they occupied came to be known as Maharashtra (Maha means great, rashtra means country) and its people called themselves Marathas/Maharashtrians. It's not strictly correct to categorize the following dynasties into Marathas and some historians might object to my classification, but for the sake of simplicity, all the following dynasties which ruled Maharashtra and other neighboring southern states of modern India have been categorized as dynasties of Maharashtra.

### **The Early Chalukyas of Vatapi or Eastern Chalukyas**

The first ancient dynasty of Maharashtra was Satavahanas, whose rulers occupied the major part of southern India including modern Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and parts of Gujrat and Karnataka states. The Satavahana empire which lasted for almost five centuries eventually collapsed. Many kingdoms arose in the ruins of the Satavahanas. One of the major kingdoms was Chalukyas, which initially replaced a major power of Andhra region, Chutus of Banavasi (Vaijayanti) and rose to prominence in 6th century AD. Like Satavahanas, Chalukyas also soon occupied a vast territory covering Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra states.

Pulakesin I was the founder of this dynasty whose capital was located at Vatapi (modern Badami in Karnataka). This dynasty is known as Eastern Chalukyas to differentiate from the later Chalukyas called Western Chalukyas. His grandson Pulakesin II was the most famous king of this dynasty. During his long reign of 33 years (AD 609 to 642) he extended his kingdom from Narmada to the Kaveri river thus occupying the best of Deccan, reviving glorious days of Satavahana king Gautamiputra Satakarni. He was the only king to successfully repulse the great king of Kannauj, Harshavardhana. Chalukyas were sworn enemies of Pallavas of Kanchipuram (located in modern Tamilnadu) and had numerous wars for supremacy for Deccan or southern India. Pulakesin's great-grandson, Vikramaditya II, finally defeated Pallavas thus becoming master of entire south India. But soon after his death, his son was overthrown by Dantidurga (king of the Rashtrakuta dynasty which had a small kingdom) in AD 753. Thus after almost two centuries of rule, the Early Chalukyan dynasty (of Vatapi) came to an end. Dantidurga laid the foundation of next great empire of Maharashtra and Karnataka which was of the Rashtrakutas.

The coinage of early Chalukyas are bit controversial but certainly interesting. The first gold coins were introduced in south India in seventh century AD by Eastern Chalukya ruler, Pulakeshi II. Interestingly, these were the punch-marked gold coins unlike the die struck coins which were struck by their contemporary rulers of north India (Gupta and post-Gupta dynasties). Punch-marked coins were first introduced in

central and north India before 4th century BC, which were always struck on pieces of silver. Gold was never used for minting punch-marked coins (although few suggest otherwise). These punch-marked silver coins were introduced to south India during the late Mauryan period and lasted for many centuries. Why the Chalukyas issued punch-marked gold coins is debated by many scholars. Possibly, the concept of die struck coins had not reached south India and availability of easy gold, which was mined in their kingdom (Karnataka region) in ample quantity, could be the two major reasons. These are rare gold coins of approximately 3.5g to 4g which were later adopted by various kingdoms of south India, including those who acknowledged suzerainty of Chalukyas. These gold coins are broad and circular in shape with various punches at the edge and a central punch depicting a Varaha or boar. The boar was the royal emblem of Early Chalukyas and was also used by later Chalukyas (Western) on their coins. The Boar represents an incarnation of lord Vishnu and can be seen in the sculptures of rock cut temples of Aihole, patronized by Eastern Chalukyas. Indeed, contemporary literature cites the gold coins of south India as Varaha, which obviously derive the name from Early Chalukyan coinage.

### **The Great Rashtrakutas**

Rashtrakutas built an empire which in its glory days extended from Malwa (central India) and Gujrat to Tanjore in the south, effectively covering the whole of south India. Rashtrakutas, who inherited the Chalukyan empire, extended it further by penetrating deep into the north and occupying Gangatic doab region. Some historians believe that Rashtrakutas gave their name to the country they ruled (the name Maharashtra was derived from Rashtra-kutas). Rashtrakutas claimed their descent from Satyaki, the associate of lord Krishna. Rashtrakutas had their capital first at Lattal Uru, (modern Latur in Maharashtra), later they shifted to Manyaketa (modern Malkhed in Karnataka). Rashtrakuta emperor Vallabhraja has been described by Arab writers to be one of the four great sovereigns of the world; the other three being the emperor of China, the khalifa of Baghdad and the emperor of Constantinople (Istanbul).

Rashtrakutas were great patrons of art and architecture; they were great builders. Krishna I, uncle of Dantidurga, was the one who built the world famous Kailasa Temple at Ellora (modern Verul in Maharashtra located about 29km from Aurangabad). This massive structure is carved out of a monolith hewn out from a mountain which is truly a remarkable engineering feat of the 8th century. The Kailasa temple dedicated to Hindu God, Shiva, is exquisitely chiseled and carved. The temple and its entire courtyard was then plastered and painted. Unfortunately, most of the plastering and thus paintings are gone but the residual surviving fragments provide glimpses of the grandeur of this magnificent structure. The caves at Gharapuri (Elephanta), located on an island near Bombay were executed under Rashtrakuta patronage in 6th century AD. A 20 feet high bust sculpture of three-headed Shiva is a symphony in stone, created by India's most talented stone carvers, in praise of this mighty god.

This dynasty produced many illustrious kings. Amoghavarsha (AD 815-877) was an author of repute. Indra III, great-grandson of Amoghavarsha inflicted a crushing defeat on Mahipala, the Pratihara King of Kannauj. His nephew Krishna III was the last

great king of Rashtrakuta dynasty. Soon after him in AD 973, the Rashtrakuta dynasty was overthrown by Taila II (a feudatory of Krishana), who claimed descent from Early Chalukyas. Unfortunately, the coinage of Rashtrakutas can not be distinguished from other contemporary dynasties and thus making it difficult to attribute to this dynasty specifically.

### **Chalukyas of Kalyana or Western Chalukyas**



**Figure 1**

Jayasimha II Jagadekamalla, AD 1015-1042

Gold, Bhairava Gadyana, Uniface

Obverse: Telugu-Kanarese inscription Bhairava

Mass: 3.72g, Reference: ONS Newsletter #160

Extremely Rare

Taila (AD 973-997), a descendent of Early Chalukyas was the founder of the second Chalukya dynasty commonly referred to as Western Chalukyas. His capital was located at the Manyakhet or Malkhed in modern Maharashtra state. This dynasty was contemporary with Cholas and thus started the long battle of supremacy for south India between these two dynasties. His grandson Jayasimha II Jagadekamalla repelled an invasion from the south by Rajendra Chola in AD 1018 and also defended his kingdom from northern invasion. He later transferred his capital from Malkhed to Kalyana or Basavakalyana in modern Karnataka state. Jayasimha was an able ruler, followed by his equally brave son, Someshwara I (1043-68) who took a title of Trailokyamalla. Rajadhiraja Chola mounted an expedition against Chalukyas in AD 1045 and later captured their capital Kalyana. Someshwara retaliated and expelled Rajadhiraja. Eventually, by the end of 12th century AD, the sovereignty of entire south India was shared between Vikramaditya VI of Chalukya dynasty and Rajendra Chola (III) Kulottunga I.

Western Chalukyan coinage can be divided into two distinct types:

1. Punch-marked gold coinage.
2. Die Struck gold coinage.

The gold punch-marked coins were first introduced in south India during the seventh century AD by Eastern Chalukya rulers. These punch-marked gold coins of approximately 3.5g to 4g were reintroduced by Jayasimha II Jagadekamalla, a ruler of Western Chalukya dynasty. These types were used by various kingdoms of south India, including those who acknowledged suzerainty of Chalukyas, the most notable among those were the Kadambas of Hangal and Goa. Shown above is an excellent and extremely rare example of a medieval punch-marked gold coin of southern India (published in ONS newsletter No. 160). This is a uniface gold coin with seven punches, four of which are prominent while three are partly struck at the border of the coin. The two prominent punch marks create two Shri alphabates (script) in Telugu-Kanarese which depicts lord Vishnu. The third punch mark corresponding to a triangular motif, represents a spearhead. The fourth punch mark represents a Telugu-Kanarese inscription which reads Bhairava. Two marks at the lower corners represent

lions (stylized) while the seventh punch mark at the lower left corner perhaps represents sun and moon.

The common gold coins of south India were known as Pagoda, Varaha and Gadyana. All three represent the same gold coin weighing approximately 3.2g to 3.36g (about 50-52 grains). The term Gadyana has been used to represent a gold coin of 48 rattis or approximately 5.2g in a famous book, *Lilavati*, written by Bhaskaracharya. No coin type is available today which exactly corresponds to the standard of *Lilavati*. The earliest reference to the term Gadyana dates to AD 733 and continued in inscriptions of Rashtrakutas, Gangas and Eastern Chalukya dynasties of south India. Gadyana has also been used in inscription of Northern India where it was a gold coin weighing about 4.01g (32 gunjas or 62 grains).

Most likely the coin shown above is a Bhairava-gadyana minted by Jayasimha Jagadekamalla. He minted coins of very similar fabric and weight depicting a triangular motif, attributed as spearhead. His coinage can be easily attributed due to the presence of legends like Jagadeka or Jagadeva or Jaya on those coins. Possibly, in the same tradition of earlier south Indian dynasties, Rashtrakutas, Gangas and Eastern Chalukya, Jayasimha Jagadekamalla also minted a gold coin called Bhairava Gadyana, with distinct punch-mark of his own dynasty, a spearhead.



**Figure 2**

Someshwara I, AD 1043-1068

Gold Die-Struck Pagoda or "Varaha" (the real one)

Obverse: Caparisoned Varaha Boar and lamp stand

Reverse: Artistic scrollwork

Mass: 3.88g, extremely rare if not unique

Reference: Mitchiner1998:268, similar to Chattopadhyaya #107

Shown above is the second type of gold coin minted by Chalukyan rulers, which is die struck. This is an extremely rare specimen minted by Someshwara I. Someshwara conquered Vengi in AD 1049 and issued this series of gold coins. Some of the coins of similar type bear the legend Sri Venga Vadi Gonda, the conqueror of Vengi. The obverse shows a large caparisoned boar or Varaha (representing one of the incarnation of Lord Vishnu) which was Lanchhana or the royal emblem of this dynasty. Above the boar is a pellet and crescent, representing the sun and moon. Near the neck of Boar is a lamp stand which was used on coins of Eastern Chalukyas but never observed in Western Chalukyas coin. The reverse has artistic scrollwork. All the three royal families, Eastern Chalukyas, Chalukyas of Vengi and Western

Chalukyas are known to have minted coins depicting Boar, looking right. The coin shown above appears to be the only known coin of Western Chalukyas which shows Boar looking left and with a lamp stand.

Someshwara's son Vikramaditya VI (AD 1076-1127) was a famous king of the Chalukyan dynasty. He started a new era replacing the old "Shaka" era. His reign is a landmark in the history of Hindu law. The great jurist Vijñaneshwara was patronized by him. Celebrated author Bilhana who wrote *Vikramadeva-Charita* was also in his court. He is also known to have patronized numerous poets. His son and successor Someshvara III (AD 1126-1138) was also a writer of repute. After the death of Someshvara III the Chalukyan empire started its decline. After ruling for two centuries, in AD 1190 this dynasty disintegrated and their territory was divided among three separate Kingdoms: Hoysalas of Dorasamudra, Kakatiyas of Warangal and Yadavas of Devgiri. Hoysalas occupied all of Karnataka region, Kakatiyas occupied Andhra Pradesh while Yadavas occupied Maharashtra.

### **Yadavas of Devgiri**



**Figure 3**

Ramchandra, AD 1270-1311

Yadava Dynasty

Gold, mass: 3.8g, rare

Reference: unlisted, similar to Mitchiner1998:289

Bhillama was the founder of the Yadava dynasty (also known as Jadhav dynasty) although it was his grandson Singhana, who made it the premier kingdom of Deccan. Singhana was a great patron of learning and literature. He established the college of astronomy to study the work of celebrated astronomer Bhaskaracharya. We can read about his magnanimous donations which are carved in stone (written in earliest Marathi language) slabs in the Goddess temple at Kolhapur in Maharashtra. Composition of famous works of scholars like Hemadri (who was responsible for introducing a style of architecture also called Hemadpanthi), Bopadeva and Dhnaneshwar (a prodigy who at the age of 16 translated Bhagavat Gita from Sanskrit to Marathi, perhaps the best and sweetest poetry ever written in Marathi) were composed during the reign of Yadava dynasty.

Yadavas had their capital at Devagiri fort (also known as Daulatabad), perhaps the strongest fort of India. It is the best example of medieval fort building style. In spite of its strength, it fell to the first Muslim invasion of southern India. In 1294, Allauddin Khilji captured the fort defeating Yadava king Ramchandra. Khilji extracted massive amounts of gold and precious metals from the Yadava king. Soon afterwards in 1312 his general Malik Kafur again invaded Devgiri followed by a massacre of royal family members. Thus Hindu sovereignty in Maharashtra came to an end in 14th century after more than two hundred years of glorious reign of the Yadavas. Thus for the first time Maharashtra was ruled by the Muslim invaders

which was continued until Marathas again united and emerged as the supreme power in seventeenth century under the command of Shivaji Bhonsale. Shown above is a nice example of a gold coin issued by Ramachandra Deva which shows "Trishul" (trident) below the legends, lotus is shown in the middle while conch is shown on top.

### **Bhonsale of Pune**

The rise of the Maratha power is the most important factor in Indian politics during seventeenth century. After the fall of Kingdom of Yadavas to Allauddin Khilji, they lost their independence but acquired political and military experience during the proceeding two centuries by serving under Muslim sultanates of Deccan. In the seventeenth century Shahaji Bhonsale, a gallant and capable soldier rose to distinction and acquired vast territory covering western Maharashtra, Karnataka and part of Tamilnadu. He even played kingmaker in the Nizam Shahi rule of Deccan. He married Jijabai, hailed from the royal family of Yadava (Jadhav in Marathi) kings of Devagiri. Her only son Shivaji was the hero of Maratha national unity whose glorious achievements have considerably influenced post Mughal Indian history.



**Figure 4**

Chatrapati Shivaji Bhonsale, AD 1630-1680

Maratha Dynasty

Copper, half Paisa, commonly known as Shivrai

Minted at Satara, mass: 8.8g

Reference: KM#265

Shivaji was born at Shivneri fort in 1627 (according to some historians AD 1630 or 1686 Samvat). Shahaji gave part of his "Jagir" or fiefdom (included Pune, Supe and Chakan) to his wife Jijabai and son Shivaji. Jijabai was a lady of extraordinary intellect and was solely responsible for making Shivaji's career as the independent Hindu King in Muslim (Mughal) dominated Indian scenario. Shivaji at a very young age realized the importance of guerilla warfare and taking advantage of growing weakness of Deccan sultanates, seized many forts in western Maharashtra and later annexed the small Maratha principality of Jawali. Later in a daredevil act, he killed Afzal Khan, a most powerful noble and general of Bijapur court. He came in direct conflict with the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb who never trusted Shivaji. He sent Shaista Khan, his able general and governor of Deccan, to destroy Marathas. After two years of sporadic fighting, one night Shivaji secretly entered into Shaista Khan's palace, slew his son, his 40 bodyguards and attacked Khan. Khan barely escaped with his life by jumping out of the window but during this lost his thumb and two fingers, chopped by Shivaji's sword. This daring attempt on the life of Mughal viceroy, who was also Emperor's uncle, immensely increased the prestige of Shivaji in Mughal court. Soon he performed another adventurous feat, the sacking and plundering of the richest Mughal port, Surat in 1664. More than 10 million rupees were taken while the Mughal governor of Surat took to his heels instead of resisting Shivaji.



**Figure 5**

Chatrapati Shivaji Bhonsale, AD 1630-1680

Maratha Dynasty

Copper, two Paisa, mass: 16.8g

Reference: Unpublished (?)

At this juncture, Aurangzeb sent Jaysingh, Raja of Amber (Jaipur), a brave and tactful general who had long military experience in many campaigns of the empire. His foresight and diplomatic skills were far superior to other Mughal generals. After a few brave attempts to save his territory, Shivaji concluded a peace treaty at Purandhar fort and on the insistence of Jay Singh, agreed to visit Aurangzeb at the Imperial court of Agra (it is difficult to understand what led Shivaji to agree to this proposal and many theories have been proposed by historians). Shivaji was coldly received by Aurangzeb, which wounded Shivaji's honor. He accused the emperor of breach of faith whereupon he was imprisoned. He escaped from prison along with his son Prince Shambhuji and most of his colleagues. Later Aurangzeb granted him title of Raja (king) and gave Vidarbha region of Maharashtra (also called Berar).

On June 6th 1674, Gaga Bhutt, a learned priest from the holy city Benaras, ceremoniously crowned Shivaji as a Chatrapti, king of all sovereign rulers. A detailed description of his coronation, celebrated with great pomp and splendor, is written by an English ambassador John Oxenden, who attended the coronation of Shivaji at his capital, Raygad. Shivaji's coronation laid the foundation of Maratha dynasty which ruled major part of central India for next two centuries. Shivaji died a bit prematurely at age of 50 in AD 1680. At his death his vast kingdom consisted of almost whole of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka, part of Gujrat and Tamilnadu states of modern India.

Unquestionably, Shivaji was a daring soldier and a skilled military conqueror but above all he was a very successful ruler. According to most historians, he was a great administrator, meticulous organizer and fine statesman. He looked after his kingdom with the help of a cabinet consisting of eight ministers called Ashtapradhana. Modern historical research has proved that revenue administration of Shivaji was humane, efficient and was in interest of his subjects. He organized the great Maratha army. He established a navy which gave considerable trouble to English, Dutch and Portuguese navies. In his private life, his moral virtues were exceptionally high. He was tolerant towards all religions and records exist where he granted lands to Muslim shrines and Capuchin fathers (Christian monks). He had strict codes for his army not to harm mosques, books of any religion and women. Both as a ruler and a man, Shivaji occupies a very distinguished place in Indian history.

### **Peshwas of Pune**

Shivaji the Great was followed by his two sons, Shambhuji and Rajaram, both ruled briefly. Brave Shambhuji fought gallantly against the Mughals but was captured by the fanatic Mughal emperor Aurangzeb and was tortured to death. Rajaram kept the battle going but died soon. The young son of Shambhuji, Shahu was put in charge of

Marathas. Shahu turned out to be a smart ruler who appointed an intelligent Brahmin, Balaji Vishwanath as his Peshwa (prime minister). After the death of Shahu, Marathas united as a confederation and owed nominal allegiance to Shahu's adopted son and later kings. The Maratha confederacy, which built the empire, consisted of five families with the Peshwas of Pune as major power brokers. The other 4 families were Shindes (Scindhias) of Gwalior, Gaikwars of Baroda, Bhonsale of Nagpur and Holkars of Indore. Shown below is a coin issued by the Peshwas at their capital Pune or Poona. Ankush, a royal symbol is seen on obverse of coin, at 9 o'clock position.



**Figure 6**  
Peshwas of Pune, 17th Century AD  
Silver Rupee  
Minted at Pune, mass: 10.74g  
Reference: KM #213

### Holkars of Indore

Indore state originated when Malhar Rao Holkar, a brave cavalry commander was granted all the territory north of the Narmada river in 1728. This made Holkars ruler of large parts of the northern India and in time Holkars and Shinde became very dominant Maratha powers. Shown above is a beautiful silver rupee of Malhar Rao Holkar which was minted in the name of a puppet Mughal emperor, Shah Alam II, who was under the protection of Maratha confederacy.



**Figure 7**  
Malhar Rao Holkar, AD 1728-1765  
Holkar of Indore  
Silver Rupee, mass: 10.74g, Minted at Chandor, year 12  
Reference: KM #3.1

Jaswant rao Holkar was a brave Maratha ruler of Indore and the only one who challenged supremacy of the Peshawas. In 1802, Jaswant Rao Holkar finally defeated the powerful Peshawas, ending their dominance in the Maratha confederacy. He even defeated the British army led by Col. William Monson. Later, lack of support from other Maratha chiefs led to his defeat by the British although Holkars kept ruling the Indore state till 1947.





### Figure 8

Jaswant Rao Holkar, AD 1798-1811

Holkar of Indore

Silver, Nazrana Rupee, Minted at Indore in AD 1807 (AH 1222), Mass: 14.74g

Reference: KM #8

Shown above is a heavy silver Nazarana Rupee of Jasawant Rao Holkar minted in the name of Jaswant Rao and Shah Alam II, a Mughal emperor who was a puppet ruler under Maratha protection. All the Maratha chiefs minted coins in the name of the puppet emperor Shah Alam II until 1857. The coin shown below is his regular silver coin displaying royal emblem of dynasty, a sun face.



### Figure 9

Jaswant Rao Holkar, AD 1798-1811

Holkar of Indore

Silver Rupee, Minted at Indore, Sunface dynasty emblem. Mass: 11.24g

Reference:

## Bhonsale of Nagpur

Bhonsale ruled in central India with his capital at Nagpur. Raghuji Bhonsale II was the last great king of this dynasty. He died in 1816 and was succeeded by his imbecile son, Parsoji. His ambitious cousin Appa Sahib and Malhar Rao Holkar II rose in arms against the British in the Battle of Sitabardi (Nagpur). They lost the war and large parts of their kingdoms were annexed. The British established a minor son of Raghuji II on Nagpure throne who took name as Raghuji III. He died without a natural heir and thus the "Doctrine of Lapse" was applied by lord Dalhousie. Bhonsale lost the Kingdom and the British took control of Nagpur state by 1853. Shown below is a nice example of the silver rupee minted by Raghuji Bhonsale III. The Maratha flag "Jaripataka" is clearly seen on the reverse of this coin (F shaped in lower left corner on coin). Representing the dynasty, this symbol, was introduced after AD 1825. As usual this coin is very similar to the silver rupees of Mughals and minted in the name of puppet emperor Shah Alam II.



**Figure 10**

Raghujji Bonsale III, AD 1816-1853

Bhonsale of Nagpur

Silver Rupee, Minted at Katak in 1825-1853. Mass: 11.3g

Reference: KM #17

### **Rise and Fall of Marathas**

After defeat of Peshawa Baji Rao II in 1818 by the British, the political supremacy of Marathas, which was built on the ruins of the Mughal empire, came to an end. Shivaji the Great brought the Maratha empire into existence, taken to its zenith by Peshwa Baji Rao I and remained the undisputed military power until the beginning of 19th century. The Maratha empire covered practically all of central and Northern India. The Mughal emperor was under protection of Marathas and acted as puppet emperor with real power vested with Peshawas (or Shindes). This empire produced fine soldiers and statesman like Shivaji, Peshwa Baji Rao I, Peshwa Madhav Rao, Malhar Rao Holkar, Mahadaji Shinde and Nana Fadnavis. Unfortunately later Maratha chiefs had no foresight and they indulged more in intrigue and conspiracies against their own than realizing superior British diplomacy and military organization. The British took full advantage of this internal confrontation and defeated most chiefs separately. Inability of all the Maratha chiefs to consolidate their military resources against British was the major cause of the Maratha decline which in turn resulted into passing power to a foreign nation. Soon after the collapse of the Maratha Empire, the British took possession of the whole subcontinent in less than a quarter century as there was no formidable power left in India to challenge them.

Collapse of Marathas had far reaching consequences in the Indian history. The fragmentation of Maratha unity and eventual loss helped the British to defeat many other minor rulers of India. After the fall of Marathas, most kings and rulers accepted British supremacy with little resistance, retaining very little political and almost no military independence (also referred to as Princely states of India).

Note: coins not shown actual size.

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The NI Meeting had 14 attendees and NI Member Donald H. Dool gave a talk about European AD Dated Copper & Bronze Coins of the 15th and 16th Centuries. It was an excellent talk and the software he used from Carlisle Development was also interesting. During the show and tell session of the meeting Howard advised collectors to update their wills with a description of their numismatic collections and/or libraries and how to dispose of them. Too many advanced collections and libraries are ending up in dumpsters or even local flea markets. There were two reporters in attendance so it will likely be mentioned in the numismatic press.

In a related Philippine Collectors Forum meeting, David Provost gave his talk "How to Design a New Philippine Medal." The medal was based on the drawing in one of Neil Shafer's references for an unused design for a 1 Peso coin. Some of the mintage of 50 pieces was sold to the attendees. David can be contacted at Dave.Provost@rtp.ppdi.com, if you want to purchase one of them.

Howard drove to Denver and he stopped to visit with collectors on the way out to Colorado and back to Virginia. It was an excellent trip and he is looking forward to Charlotte in the spring and Milwaukee in the summer, where he will also represent NI at these conventions. If you wish to be a speaker at one of the meetings, you can contact Howard by email: HADaniel3@msn.com.



### **Letters to the Editor**

I enjoyed James Martin's article (in September 2006 NI Bulletin—*ed.*) on Andreas Hofer but his imagination ran away with him when he suggests that the legend on the coins *Nach dem Conventions Fuss* should be translated literally as "After the Convention's foot" and more freely as "Freedom after the Convention."

*Nach dem Conventions Fuss* can, of course, be found on many German coins. Fuss does not only mean "foot" but also "standard." The "Muenzfuss" is the legal regulation of the weight and metal content of the coinage.

I believe the first such standard for all Germany was the Reichsverordnung (Imperial Decree) of 1524, which decreed that the Cologne mark (233.855 grams) to be the standard monetary weight of the Holy Roman Empire and directed that 8 Guldengroschen were to be struck from each mark of 15/16 fine silver (so that a Guldengroschen was equal to 27.4 grams of fine silver). The Deutsche Reichsverordnung of 1566 laid down that a Reichstaler should weigh 1/8 of a Cologne Mark or 2 Lots ( a Lot was about ten grams) or 36 grains and should consist of 32 grains of silver and 4 grains of copper. This was sometimes called the "9-Talerfuss" (9 Taler standard) since 9 Talers added up 1 Mark of Fine Silver. Many further such decrees and agreements between the different German states followed, over time lowering the silver content and devaluing the currency.

In 1750 Austria introduced a "20-Guldenfuss" (20 Gulden or Florin standard) under which 20 Gulden were struck from 1 Mark of Fine Silver. Under this "Muenzfuss" or standard, a Reichstaler contained 17.52 grams of Fine Silver but Austria issued a new Speciestaler worth 2 Gulden or 1 1/3 Reichstalers, coined at the ratio of 10 to the fine mark. Bavaria adhered to the new standard under the Austro-Bavarian Convention of 1753 (although it withdrew again a year later). However, by the time the Seven Years War ended in 1763, the Austrian standard had been accepted by almost all the states of the Empire except Prussia and this was ratified by the Convention of Leipzig in that year. The Austrian standard then became known as the "Konventionsfuss" or "Conventionsfuss". Konventionstalers replaced the old Reichstalers all over the Empire. The legend on the Andreas Hofer coins "nach dem Conventions Fuss" means "according to the Convention Standard."

There was one additional complication where small denominations were concerned. The Konventionsfuss laid down a logical weight and silver content for every coin down to the lowly Groschen based on the same 20 Gulden to 1 Mark of silver standard. However, this turned out to be impractical. The small coins were too expensive to produce. As a result, states produced lower denomination coins for internal use based on a "24-Guldenfuss" (24 Gulden to 1 Mark of fine silver standard). This coinage was called "Landmuenze" (State Coins) or "Scheidemuenze" (literally Separate Coins). Andreas Hofer's 20 Kreuzer "nach dem Conventions Fuss" was worth 24 Kreuzers of the various local "Landmuenzen" or "Scheidemuenzen."

To check the details of all this, I have once again turned to two indispensable books in my library, Friedrich von Schroetter's *Woerterbuch der Muenzkunde* and *Germanic Coinages* by William D. Craig.

Robert Ronus

James Martin's response.

I would like to heartily thank Mr. Ronus for taking the time to correct my inaccurate translation of the legend on the Andreas Hofer 20 Kreuzer piece I presented. His explanation is wonderfully detailed and very informative. Based upon limited reference resources and an incorrect translation of "Fuss," my imagination did get the best of me in my attempt to present a translation. Based upon this correction my statement associating Hofer's authority to mint with my translation would also be incorrect. Again, I'd like to thank Mr. Ronus for using this forum to help educate us all."

James Martin

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/numismatics>

